FLASH GORDON

Daily Series I, Story 010

"The Menace of Mysta"

March 27, 1944 to April 25, 1944

by Austin Briggs

GOODBYE TO ELVINLAND!
I HOPE I GET BACK, MISS DALE, AFTER I TAKE YOU TWO ACROSS LOST LAKE. I AM A VERY BRAVE. ELVIN TO RISK ITS DANGERS.

HERE WE GO INTO THE FOG BANK. I'LL ACT AS LOOKOUT, WHILE YOU STEER.
OKAY!
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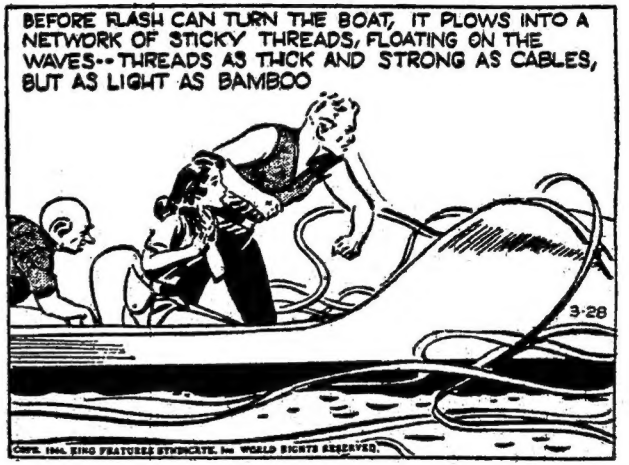
HARD RIGHT! NOW STRAIGHT! ROCKS ON RIGHT--!
3-27

WE'RE COMING OUT OF THE WALL OF FOG! ALL'S CLEAR AHEAD!

FLASH HAS HARDLY REJOINED DALE, WHEN HE REALIZES THAT HE SPOKE TOO SOON. LOST LAKE IS NOT ALL CLEAR AHEAD
LOOK!


BEFORE FLASH CAN TURN THE BOAT, IT PLOWS INTO A NETWORK OF STICKY THREADS, FLOATING ON THE WAVES--THREADS AS THICK AND STRONG AS CABLES, BUT AS LIGHT AS BAMBOO
3-28
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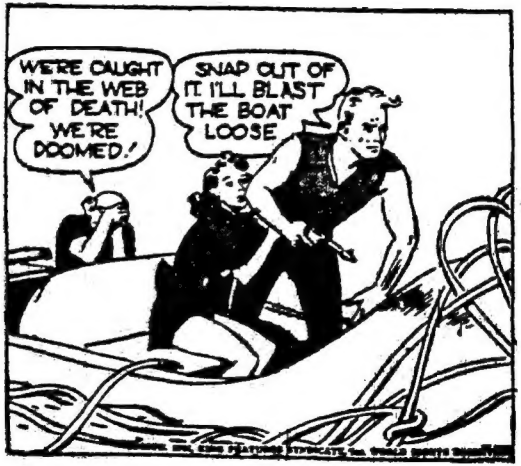
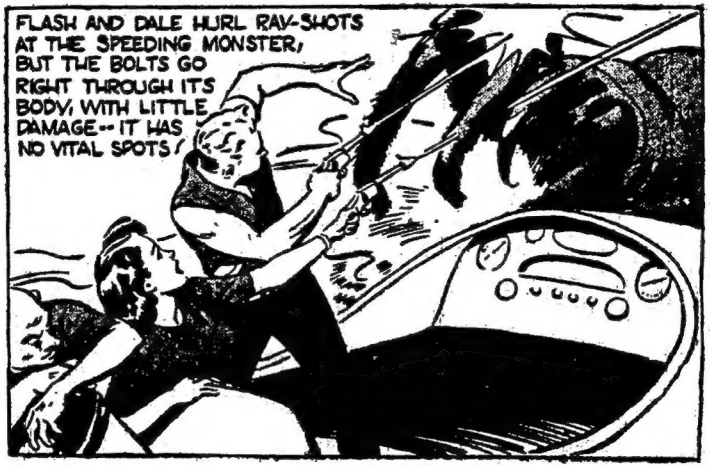

WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF DEATH! WE'RE DOOMED!
SNAP OUT OF IT I'LL BLAST THE BOAT LOOSE

THE WAVES MAKE THE STICKY SPIDER-WEB THRASH, AS IF ALIVE, BUT FLASH'S RAY-FIRE CUTS THROUGH THE EVIL STUFF

BRAVE AS SHE IS, DALE SUDDENLY SCREAMS---
LOOK OUT, FLASH! THAT THING --- COMING TOWARD US!
3-29

WARNED BY THE MOTION OF ITS FLOATING WEB A GIGANTIC SPIDERON RISES, DRIPPING FROM THE SEA, TO ATTACK ITS PREY
3-30


FLASH AND DALE HURL RAY-SHOTS AT THE SPEEDING MONSTER, BUT THE BOLTS GO RIGHT THROUGH ITS BODY, WITH LITTLE DAMAGE -- IT HAS NO VITAL SPOTS!

A HORRIBLE FATE LOOMS OVER FLASH AND DALE, AS THE SPIDERON PRESSES IT'S ATTACK, DESPITE THE RAY-BARRAGE
DUCK, DALE, I'M GOING TO TRY A FLAME-BLAST!
OH, O.O.
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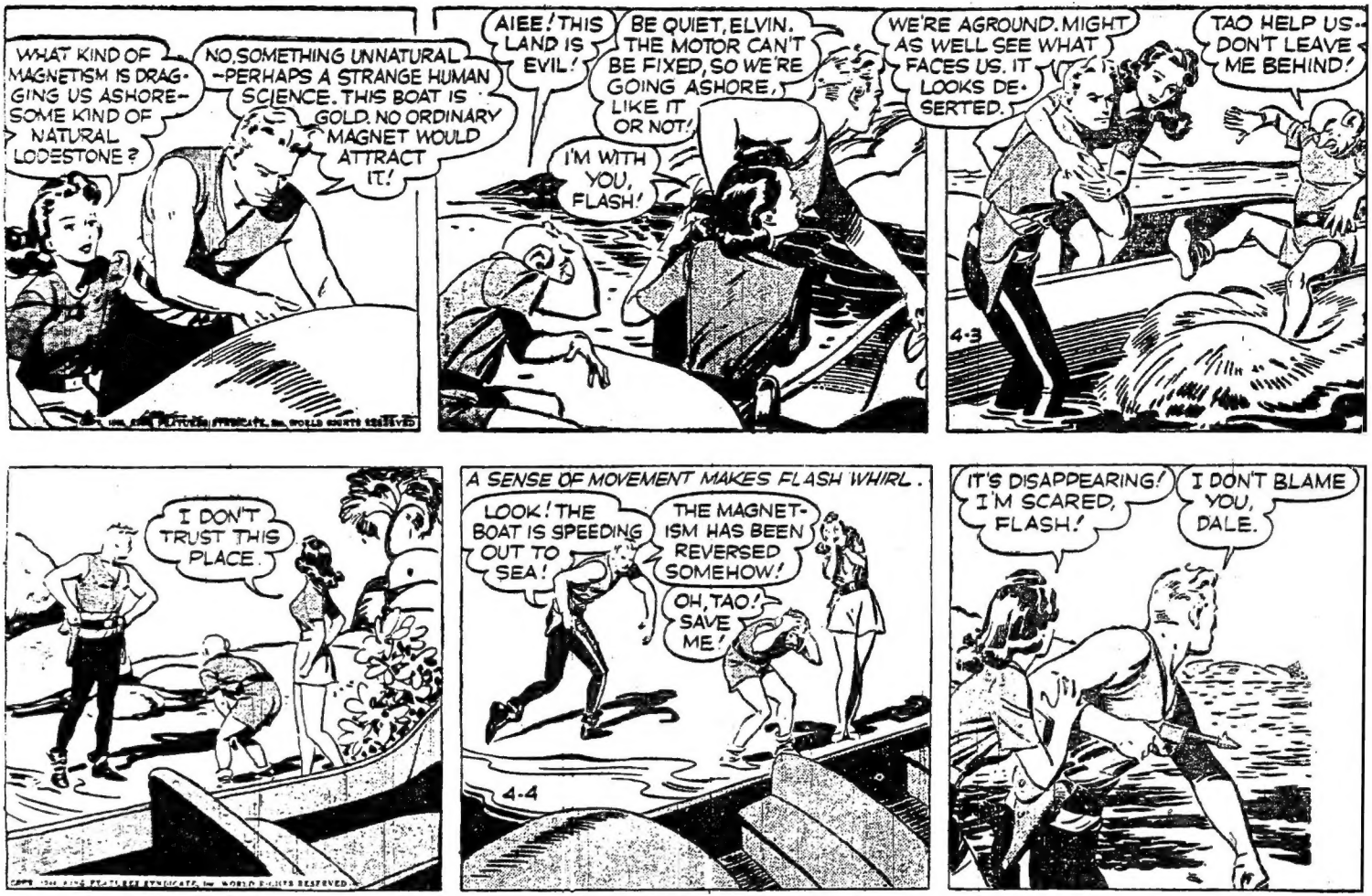
FLASH'S GUN SPITS A TORRENT OF BLAZING ATOMS. THE MONSTER HALTS-- THEN SUDDENLY A FIERY EXPLOSION ENGULFS THE SPIDERON AND IT'S WEB!
3-31
ONLY CINDERS AND SMOKE REMAIN OF THE SPIDERON AND IT'S WEB
OOH, THANK TAO!
YOU SAVED US AGAIN, FLASH.
AND ABOUT TIME, TOO!
THE FIRE AND THE FOULED PROPELLER HAVE DAMAGED THE MOTOR.
BUT WE'RE MOVING -- IT'S LIKE A TIDE OR A MILL-RACE!
4-1
COPR. 1944, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc. WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THERE'S NO TIDE AND THE COMPASS HAS GONE CRAZY. IT'S SOME STRANGE MAGNETISM, PULLING US TOWARD THAT POINT OF LAND!
NEXT WEEK: LAND of INVISIBLE DOOM!


WHAT KIND OF MAGNETISM IS DRAGGING US ASHORE—SOME KIND OF NATURAL LODESTONE?
NO, SOMETHING UNNATURAL—PERHAPS A STRANGE HUMAN SCIENCE. THIS BOAT IS GOLD. NO ORDINARY MAGNET WOULD ATTRACT IT!
AIEE! THIS LAND IS EVIL!
BE QUIET, ELVIN. THE MOTOR CAN'T BE FIXED, SO WE'RE GOING ASHORE, LIKE IT OR NOT!
I'M WITH YOU, FLASH!
WE'RE AGROUND. MIGHT AS WELL SEE WHAT FACES US. IT LOOKS DESERTED.
TAO HELP US—DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!
4-3
I DON'T TRUST THIS PLACE.
A SENSE OF MOVEMENT MAKES FLASH WHIRL.
LOOK! THE BOAT IS SPEEDING OUT TO SEA!
THE MAGNETISM HAS BEEN REVERSED SOMEHOW!
OH, TAO! SAVE ME!
4-4
IT'S DISAPPEARING! I'M SCARED, FLASH!
I DON'T BLAME YOU, DALE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. OUR BOAT JUST DISAPPEARED IN THIN AIR!
FOR TAO'S SAKE, SAVE ME-- AIEE!
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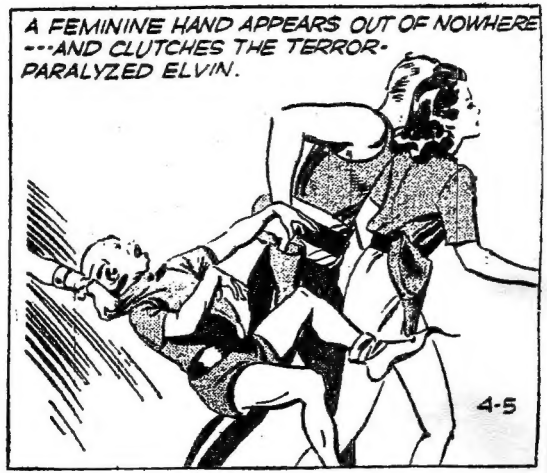
STICK CLOSE TOGETHER, YOU TWO. I HAVE A HUNCH WE AREN'T ALONE.
OH, OH, OH, OH.


A FEMININE HAND APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE ---AND CLUTCHES THE TERROR-PARALYZED ELVIN.
4-5

THE HORRIFIED ELVIN MANAGES TO LET OUT ONE CHOKED BLEAT AS A MYSTERIOUS HAND PULLS HIM INTO THE INVISIBLE NOWHERE -
HELP!

FLASH SEES THE ELVIN, VANISHING INTO THE UNKNOWN--BUT HE CANNOT SHOOT AT THE UNSEEN ASSAILANT, FOR FEAR OF HITTING HIS COMRADE!
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NO! DON'T LEAVE ME, FLASH! YOU'LL BE DESTROYED!
DON'T HOLD ME BACK, DALE! KEEP FIGHTING, ELVIN, I'M COMING!
4-6

DON'T HOLD ME BACK! I'VE GOT TO SAVE THE ELVIN, WHEREVER HE'S DISAPPEARED TO!
I-I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT TAKE ME WITH YOU!
LOOK! THERE'S THE INVISIBLE WALL WHERE THINGS DISAPPEAR!
I'M SCARED STIFF
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SEE, NOTHING HAPPENED TO THE GUN IN THE UNSEEN WORLD. LET'S STEP ACROSS THE LINE.
I'LL-- I'LL GO ANYWHERE WITH YOU.
4-7
READY FOR AN UNKNOWN FATE, FLASH AND DALE STRIDE BRAVELY FORWARD ONTO THE SPOT WHERE THE ELVIN VANISHED...
QUEER--
NOTHING HAPPENED!
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NOTHING HAS HAPPENED-- COMPARED TO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU TWO!
QUEEN MYSTA WELCOMES YOU!
FLASH AND DALE PURSUE QUEEN MYSTA INTO THE INVISIBLE UNKNOWN...
NEXT WEEK: MYSTA, THE MENACE
4-8

BOLDLY, FLASH AND DALE PUSH THROUGH THE INVISIBLE SCREEN THAT HIDES QUEEN MYSTA AND HER WEIRD LITTLE KING-DOM---
4-10
HOLD, BOLD FOOL, THIS IS MY KINGDOM. YOU'LL LEARN TO FEAR ME HERE.
YOUR LIGHT-RAY MAGIC DOESN'T SCARE US, MYSTA. RELEASE OUR GUIDE AND WE'LL GO IN PEACE.
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WITH A FLICK OF HER FINGER ON ONE OF HER MYSTERIOUS BELT-DEVICES, MYSTA MAKES HER KINGDOM VANISH.
DON'T WASTE YOUR SHOTS. YOU CAN'T SEE US, BUT I CAN SEE YOU--- AND KILL YOU, IF I CHOOSE.
FLASH RACES TOWARD THE SPOT WHERE HE LAST SAW QUEEN MYSTA.
STAY CLOSE TO ME, DALE!
4-11
MYSTA'S MOCKING VOICE LEADS THEM ON.
RUN, FOOLS-- RUN INTO MY TRAP!
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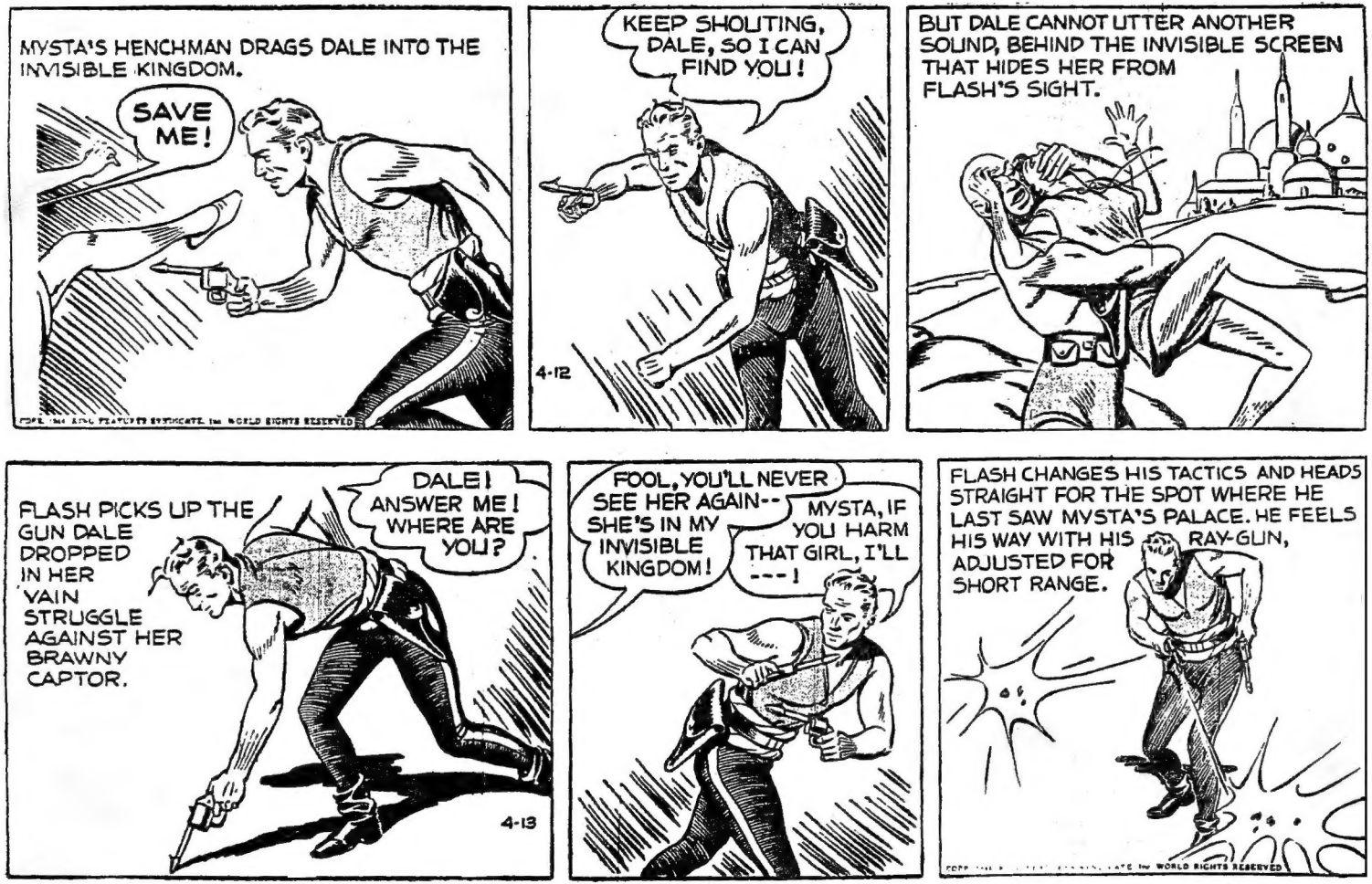
OUT OF THE UNSEEN, ONE OF MYSTA'S MEN SEIZES DALE.
HELP!


MYSTA'S HENCHMAN DRAGS DALE INTO THE INVISIBLE KINGDOM.
SAVE ME!
KEEP SHOUTING, DALE, SO I CAN FIND YOU!
4-12
BUT DALE CANNOT UTTER ANOTHER SOUND, BEHIND THE INVISIBLE SCREEN THAT HIDES HER FROM FLASH'S SIGHT.
FLASH PICKS UP THE GUN DALE DROPPED IN HER VAIN STRUGGLE AGAINST HER BRAWNY CAPTOR.
DALE! ANSWER ME! WHERE ARE YOU?
4-13
FOOL, YOU'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN-- SHE'S IN MY INVISIBLE KINGDOM!
MYSTA, IF YOU HARM THAT GIRL, I'LL ---!
FLASH CHANGES HIS TACTICS AND HEADS STRAIGHT FOR THE SPOT WHERE HE LAST SAW MYSTA'S PALACE. HE FEELS HIS WAY WITH HIS RAY-GUN, ADJUSTED FOR SHORT RANGE.

ATTACK HIM FROM THE SIDE, THROW ROCKS AT HIS GUN.
MYSTA WATCHES FLASH'S GRIM ADVANCE TOWARD HER INVISIBLE PALACE, BLASTING ALL OPPOSITION.
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MYSTA'S INVISIBLE HENCH-MEN SLIP UP ON FLASH.
BUT FLASH DOES NOT RELY UPON HIS EYES ALONE, FOR HE IS WARNED BY HIS KEEN SENSE OF DANGER.
4-14
FLASH FIRES A SWEEPING BARRAGE INTO THE INVISIBLE--AND A HOWL OF PAIN SHOWS THAT HIS OTHER ATTACKER IS ROUTED.
OWOO!
FLASH EXAMINES HIS DAZED VICTIM'S MYSTERIOUS EQUIPMENT.
4-15
CAUTIOUSLY, HE EXPERIMENTS WITH THE STRANGE DEVICE. SUDDENLY THE WHOLE SCENE BEFORE HIS EYES CHANGES.
LOOK OUT, MYSTA--HERE I COME!
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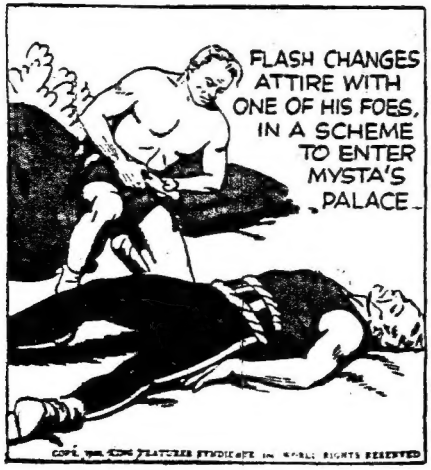
NEXT WEEK
MYSTA'S PALACE . .

FLASH MOVES TOWARD QUEEN MYSTA'S PALACE, ARMED WITH A CAPTURED INVISO-RAY BELT.
WELL, MYSTA, I KNEW YOUR MAGIC WAS SOME NEW LIGHT-RAY DEVICE.
NOW, YOU WON'T FIND ME SUCH AN EASY VICTIM!
FLASH CONCEALS THE BELT.
THE QUEEN DOESN'T KNOW I HAVE ONE OF HER LITTLE GADGETS!
FLASH PRETENDS HE CANNOT SEE MYSTA'S PALACE, AND "BLUNDERS" INTO A NEARBY FOREST--TO ESCAPE WATCHFUL EYES.
KEEPING OUT OF RANGE, FLASH WATCHES THE HOSTILE STRONGHOLD...
4-17
THE FOOL IS BLUNDERING THROUGH THE FOREST. CAPTURE HIM!
FLASH SEES THE GUARDS AND GOES DEEPER TO KEEP OUT OF SIGHT
4-18
MYSTA'S GUARDS BELIEVE THAT FLASH CANNOT SEE THEM--
BUT THEY DON'T SEE HIM--
FLASH HURLS A SOUNDLESS RAY-BOLT AT THE SECOND GUARD--


FLASH CHANGES ATTIRE WITH ONE OF HIS FOES, IN A SCHEME TO ENTER MYSTA'S PALACE.
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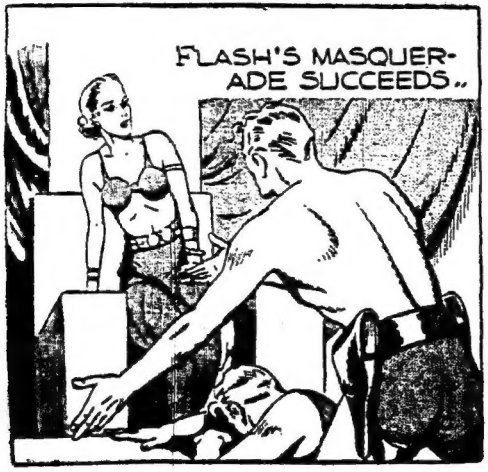
DRESSED AS ONE OF MYSTA'S GUARDS, FLASH APPROACHES THE PALACE....
I'LL BET MYSTA ORDERED THE GUARDS TO BRING ME BACK!

WHERE'S THE OTHER GUARD?
THIS STRANGER KILLED HIM! HELP ME CARRY MY PRISONER TO THE QUEEN

FLASH'S TRICK WORKS! THE LACKEY UNKNOWINGLY LEADS THE WAY STRAIGHT TO THE QUEEN'S THRONE-ROOM...
4-19


FLASH'S MASQUERADE SUCCEEDS..

YOU WERE LOOKING AT THE WRONG MAN, MYSTA! REACH FOR YOUR TRICK BELT AND I'LL SHOOT YOU!
FLASH!
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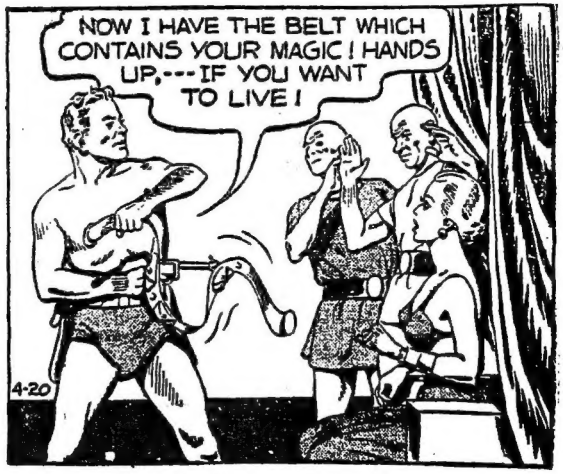
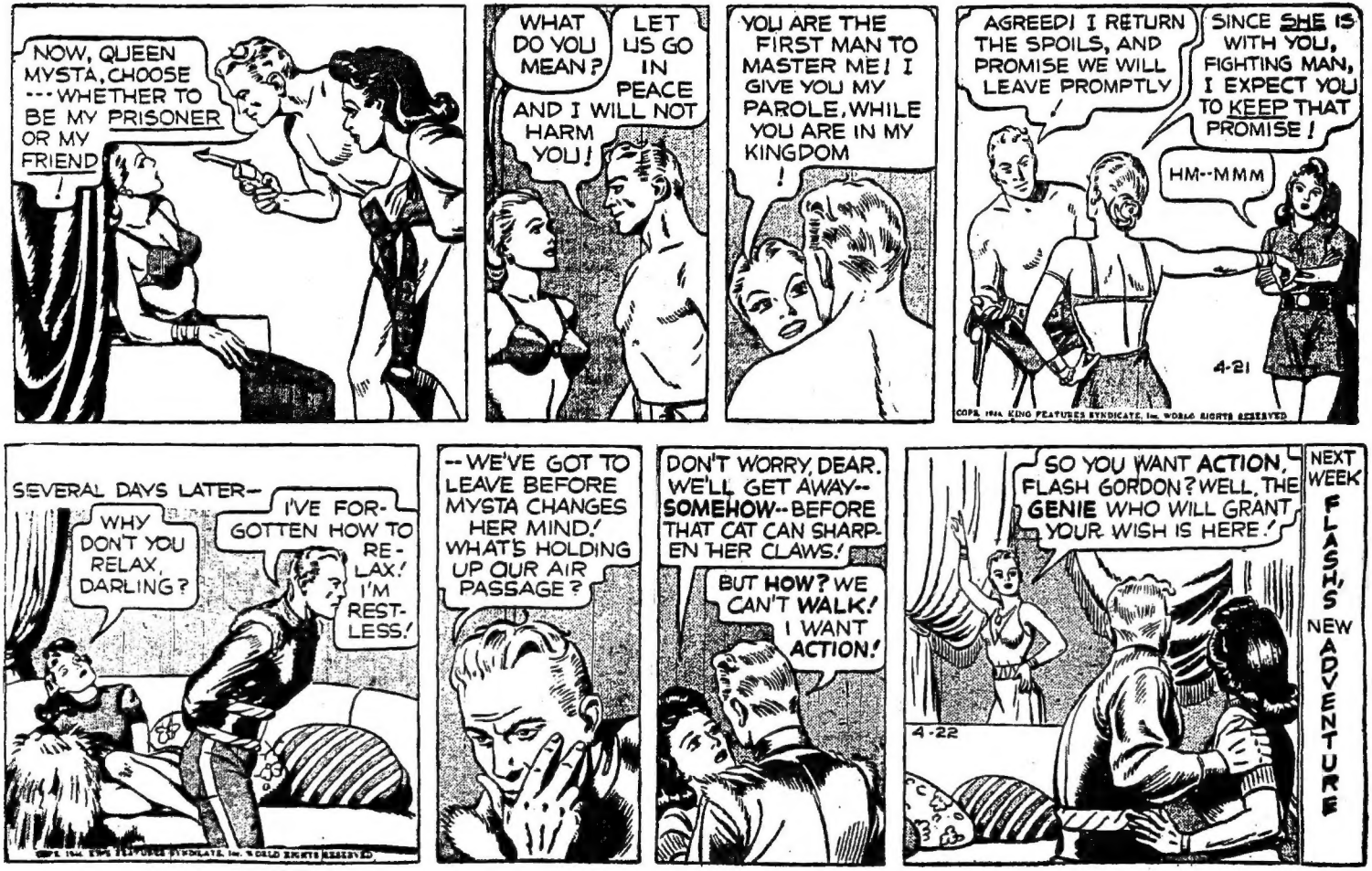

NOW I HAVE THE BELT WHICH CONTAINS YOUR MAGIC! HANDS UP,---IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!
4-20


NOW, QUEEN MYSTA, CHOOSE --- WHETHER TO BE MY PRISONER OR MY FRIEND!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
LET US GO IN PEACE AND I WILL NOT HARM YOU!
YOU ARE THE FIRST MAN TO MASTER ME! I GIVE YOU MY PAROLE, WHILE YOU ARE IN MY KINGDOM!
AGREED! I RETURN THE SPOILS, AND PROMISE WE WILL LEAVE PROMPTLY
SINCE SHE IS WITH YOU, FIGHTING MAN, I EXPECT YOU TO KEEP THAT PROMISE!
HM--MMM
4-21
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SEVERAL DAYS LATER--
WHY DON'T YOU RELAX, DARLING?
I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO RELAX! I'M RESTLESS!
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--WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE BEFORE MYSTA CHANGES HER MIND! WHAT'S HOLDING UP OUR AIR PASSAGE?
DON'T WORRY, DEAR. WE'LL GET AWAY-- SOMEHOW-- BEFORE THAT CAT CAN SHARPEN HER CLAWS!
BUT HOW? WE CAN'T WALK! I WANT ACTION!
SO YOU WANT ACTION, FLASH GORDON? WELL, THE GENIE WHO WILL GRANT YOUR WISH IS HERE!
4-22
NEXT WEEK FLASH'S NEW ADVENTURE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN MYSTA,-- "THE GENIE IS HERE"?
JUST WHAT I SAID! A WIZARD OF SCIENCE,-- AND OUR MUTUAL FRIEND--
4-24
--NONE OTHER THAN-- DOCTOR ZARKOV!
IN THE FLESH!
DOC ZARKOV, IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I CAME, LOOKING FOR YOU TWO LOVE BIRDS! THANK HEAVEN, I'VE CAUGHT UP WITH YOU!
HOW WE'VE MISSED YOU!
QUEEN MYSTA AND I ARE FRIENDS! I INVENTED THE INVISO-RAY BELT TO PROTECT HER!
AND I USED IT AGAINST YOUR FRIENDS! I SHALL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!
4-25
LATER:
SOMETHING'S UP! LET'S HAVE IT, DOC!
I'M UP AGAINST THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF MY LIFE!
MY FRIENDS, WILL YOU GO WITH ME---AND NO QUESTIONS ASKED?
ANYWHERE, ZARKOV! COUNT US IN!
MINUTES LATER, FLASH AND DALE ARE OFF WITH ZARKOV, IN HIS ROCKET-PLANE, ON A MYSTERIOUS VENTURE--
I KNEW YOU KIDS WOULD COME! THANKS!